[Translation]

Telephone Connection in Maharashtra

1978. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telephone connections installed in Maharashtra during the last three years, District-wise;

(b) whether any special scheme has been formulated for the development and extension of telephone exchanges & telephone services in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of funds allocated to the State for this purpose during 1996-97;

(e) whether Government have received complaints of irregularities in giving telephone connections; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, District-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f). Information in respect of the question is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Hon'ble House.

T.C.A. System

1979. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for all operators coming to India to have transponders on their aircraft;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-installation of TCA System?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued instructions in February, 1994 making it mandatory to install Mode 'S' Transponder on aircraft whose maximum weight is more than 5,700 kg and above and having seating capacity of 30 or more.

(c) ICAO regulations require that the mandatory carriage of Mode 'S' Transponder shall be on the basis of regional air navigation agreements and seven years notice. In view of this, Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) system could not be made mandatory with immediate effect.

Broad Gauge Line between Kolar-Bangarpet

1980. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when was the work on broad gauging the Kolar-Bangarpet section of the railway track started and when is it expected to be completed;

(b) the total cost of the project and the amount spent so far;

(c) whether used and rusted rails from Yelgi and Kuppam have been taken to Kolar ostensibly to be used to broad gauge the Kolar-Bangarpet sector; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work was sanctioned in 1994-95. It is expected to be completed by 31.03.97.

(b) It is a part section of the Yelahanka-Chikballapur and Kolar-Bangarpet project on which Rs. 35.48 crs. has been spent upto 31.03.96 and an outlay of Rs. 5 crs. has been provided in this financial year.

(c) and (d). Good second hand rails with adequate residual life have been used on this sector. This is as per the normal practice of the Railways for lines having light traffic.

Singhania Safety Committee

1981. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Singhania Safety Committee has been disbanded after the resignation of its Chairman.

(b) whether it is a fact that safety measures only included distribution of safety leaflets by the Committee; and

(c) if so, the details of the work assigned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The functions of the Committee are to interact with the Airlines, regulatory authorities, Airports Authority and aviation support agencies with a view to creating safety awareness and educating their personnel to enhance the level of flight safety; organise safety seminars and develop safety posters for display throughout the country.

[Translation]

Railway Protection Force

1982. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of battalions/companies in Railway Protection Force along with location of their headquarters separately;